

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00  
CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07  
NSAE-00 EPG-02 FAA-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03 NSC-05  
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00  
/077 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5309

WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

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WHITE HOUSE FOR JOHNSTON

PASS DOT FOR JEWELL, DAVENPORT, KAMM; CAB FOR STEFANY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, UK

SUBJECT: US-UK CIVAIR NEGOTIATIONS: PRESS GUIDANCE

USDEL RECOMMENDS FOLLOWING FOR USE AT DEPT NOON PRESS  
BRIEFING JUNE 21.

1. QUESTION--WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE US-UK AVIATION  
TALKS?

ANSWER--A. THE TALKS ARE IN THE FINAL STAGES. THE TWO  
DELEGATIONS MOVED CLOSER TOGETHER YESTERDAY ON SEVERAL  
IMPORTANT ISSUES, BUT CERTAIN POINTS OF FUNDAMENTAL

DISAGREEMENT REMAIN.

B. THE MOST CRITICAL ISSUES ARE UNDER DISCUSSION. THE  
POSSIBILITY OF A CESSATION OF SERVICE ON WEDNESDAY  
IS REAL, ALTHOUGH NEITHER COUNTRY DESIRES CESSATION.  
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THIS STATEMENT IS MADE TO ALERT THE PUBLIC AS TO POSSIBLE  
INCONVENIENCE AND DISRUPTION IN TRAVEL PLANS IN THE  
EVENT US-UK AIR SERVICES ARE SUSPENDED. BOTH COUNTRIES  
ARE SEEKING TO AVOID THE NECESSITY FOR ANY DISRUPTION OF  
AIR SERVICES.

C. THE AIRLINES SERVING THE UNITED STATES AND THE

UNITED KINGDOM HAVE MADE CONTINGENCY PLANS TO ACCOMMODATE TRAFFIC SHOULD AN AGREEMENT NOT BE REACHED BEFORE THE DEADLINE. THE AIRLINES HAVE ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE NEWSPAPERS PROVIDING INFORMATION FOR THOSE TRAVELING OR SHIPPING BY AIR BETWEEN THE US AND THE UK.

2. QUESTION--WHAT ARE THE REMAINING MAJOR ISSUES OF DIFFERENCE?

ANSWER--AT THIS POINT, THE FOCUS OF DISCUSSION IS NORTH ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC ROUTES.

3. QUESTION--BRITISH AIRWAYS HAS PLACED ADVERTISEMENTS IN AMERICAN AND BRITISH NEWSPAPERS ADVISING TRAVELERS OF CONTINGENCY PLANS IN THE EVENT DIRECT SERVICES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED KINGDOM ARE TERMINATED ON JUNE 22. DOES THIS ACTION REFLECT A REALISTIC ASSESSMENT THAT CESSATION OF SERVICES IS LIKELY?

ANSWER--SINCE THE POSSIBILITY OF CESSATION CANNOT BE RULED OUT ENTIRELY, AFFECTED CARRIERS HAVE NECESSARILY DEVELOPED CONTINGENCY PLANS. THE PUBLIC SHOULD BE ALERTED TO FACT THAT A SUSPENSION OF SERVICES IS A REAL POSSIBILITY.

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4. QUESTION--THE BRITISH PRESS TODAY REPORTED THAT THE TWO DELEGATIONS HAD AGREED THE EXISTING AGREEMENT DOES NOT EXPIRE UNTIL MIDNIGHT, WEDNESDAY, WASHINGTON TIME, AND THAT TALKS SHOULD CONTINUE UNTIL THAT TIME. IS THIS REPORT ACCURATE?

ANSWER--NO, THE REPORT IS NOT ACCURATE. THE UNITED STATES HAS CONSISTENTLY STATED THAT THE EXISTING AGREEMENT EXPIRES AT MIDNIGHT ON TUESDAY, WASHINGTON TIME, AND UNTIL YESTERDAY, THE UK DELEGATION APPEARED TO SHARE THIS VIEW. THE US CONTINUES TO ADHERE TO ITS POSITION.

5. QUESTION--IF CESSATION SHOULD OCCUR, WOULD IT ONLY INVOLVE SCHEDULED SERVICES, OR WOULD CHARTER SERVICES CEASE AS WELL?

ANSWER--THAT IS NOT CLEAR AT THIS POINT.

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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